

REMARKS

This application is being filed concurrently with entry into the National Stage (Chapter I) of International Application No. PCT/GB2004/005211 which claims the priority of Great Britain Patent Application No. 0329034.3.

This Preliminary Amendment was considered when calculating the filing fee. Accordingly, the total number of claims specified on the Transmittal Letter is 31 and the number of independent claims is 3.

The Specification has been amended to place the application in proper U.S. format. Headings have been added to each section.

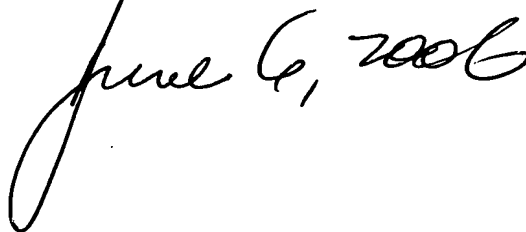
Claims 1-22 and 24-28 remain in the application and claims 29-32 are new. Claims 5, 7, 12-16, 19-21, and 26-28 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies in these claims and to place the claims in proper U.S. format.

It is not believed at this time that any additional fee is due. As a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 02-2865 any additional fee required by this submission.

Respectfully submitted,



Ira Lee Zebrak
Registration No. 31,147
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Date:



The BOC Group, Inc.
Legal Services-Intellectual Property
575 Mountain Avenue
Murray Hill, NJ 07974
Phone: 908-771-6469
Fax: 908-771-6159